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IN THE CLAIMS:

All of the pending claims 1-12 and 14-26 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (previously presented), (cancelled), or (currently amended).

Please AMEND claims 1, 6-12, 14, and 21-23 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method used in a system to purchase a product over a network, said method comprising:

associating cart identification information with a first user;

receiving, from the first user, designation information of a product provider designating a third party which the first user permits to view the cart identification information and to view product information which the first user associates with the cart identification information, and which provides a product related to the viewed product information as well as additional information related to the viewed product information, and associating and storing the designation information with the cart identification information;

receiving product information on said product from the first user;

associating said product information with the cart identification information;

notifying said product provider associated with said cart identification information ~~third party~~ of said cart identification information and product information in accordance with a receipt of designation information of said product provider or a receipt of said product information;

receiving additional information regarding the product identified by said product information from said product provider ~~third party~~;

associating said received additional information with said cart identification information;

and

notifying said first user of said received product information and additional information.

2. (original) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

associating settlement information of said user needed for a purchase of said product over said network with said cart identification information;

receiving an instruction for said purchase of said product from said first user; and

selling said product to said first user, using said settlement information.

3. (original) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 2, further comprising:

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storing whether or not said product is purchased; and
notifying said first user that said product is purchased or not purchased yet.

4. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 2, further comprising:

receiving an instruction for assignment and second user information on a second user from said first user; and

associating said second user with said cart identification information.

5. (original) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 2, further comprising:

determining whether or not an incentive condition has been fulfilled based on said product information, designation information and settlement information, said incentive condition predetermined for awarding said first user for said purchase of said product; and

awarding said first user based on said determining.

6. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

notifying said product provider~~third party~~ of said additional information.

7. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

notifying said product provider~~third party~~ of competitor information on other product providers~~third parties~~.

8. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring for an occurrence of a predetermined event based on said product information and designation information; and

notifying said product provider~~third party~~ of said occurrence when said predetermined event occurs.

9. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

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determining whether or not said product provider~~third-party~~ has fulfilled a fee charging condition based on said product information and designation information,
computing fee charging information for charging fees to said product provider~~third-party~~ which has fulfilled said fee charging condition; and
storing said fee charging information for invoicing said product provider~~third-party~~.

10. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

computing a relationship between product and product price based on said product information; and

supplying said relationship to said first user and/or said product provider~~third-party~~.

11. (currently amended) An online sales promotion apparatus used in a system to purchase a product over a network, said apparatus comprising:

means for associating cart identification information with a first user;

means for receiving, from the first user, designation information of a product provider~~designating a third-party~~ which the first user permits to view the cart identification information and to view product information which the first user associates with the cart identification information, and which provides a product related to the viewed product information as well as additional information related to the viewed product information, and associating and storing the designation information with the cart identification information;

means for receiving product information on said product from the first user;

means for associating said product information with the cart identification information;

means for notifying said product provider ~~associated with said cart identification information~~~~third-party~~ of said cart identification information and product information in accordance with a receipt of designation information of said product provider or a receipt of said product information;

means for receiving additional information regarding the product identified by said product information from said product provider~~third-party~~;

means for associating said received additional information with said cart identification information; and

means for notifying said first user of said received product information and additional information.

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12. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium whereon is recorded an online sales promotion program, for use in a system to purchase a product over a network, said program executes:

associating cart identification information with a first user;

receiving, from the first user, designation information of a product provider designating a third party which the first user permits to view the cart identification information and to view product information which the first user associates with the cart identification information, and which provides a product related to the viewed product information as well as additional information related to the viewed product information, and associating and storing the designation information with the cart identification information;

receiving product information on said product from the first user;

associating said product information with the cart identification information;

notifying said product provider associated with said cart identification information ~~third party~~ of said cart identification information and product information in accordance with a receipt of designation information of said product provider or a receipt of said product information;

receiving additional information regarding the product identified by said product information from said product provider ~~third party~~;

associating said received additional information with said cart identification information;

and

notifying said first user of said received product information and additional information.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method, comprising:

receiving, via a network, designation information designating one or more information-providing terminals which the first user permits to access a cart identifier associated with the first user, and to access product information which the first user associates with the cart identifier and product information, and to provide additional product information related to the accessed product information, from a first user terminal;

storing in a first storage, in association with the cart identifier, the product information and the designation information;

sending the cart identifier and the product information associated therewith to the one or more designated information-providing terminals;

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receiving additional information from any one of the designated information-providing terminals, and storing the received additional information in association with the cart identifier in a second storage; and

sending to the first user terminal the product information and the additional information.

15. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method according to claim 14, further comprising:

associating and storing settlement information of the first user needed for a purchase of the product over the network with the cart identifier; and

receiving a designation instruction and purchase of the product from the first user terminal.

16 (previously presented) An online sales promotion method according to claim 15, further comprising:

receiving from the first user terminal an assignment instruction of the cart identifier to a second user terminal; and

rewriting the user terminal associated with the cart identifier from the first user terminal to the second user terminal.

17. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 15, further comprising:

storing an incentive condition for sending award information relating to a purchase of a product to the user terminals;

determining whether the incentive condition is met based on information associated with the cart identifier; and

sending the award information to the first user terminal in accordance with the determination result.

18. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

monitoring an occurrence of a predetermined event based on information associated with the cart identifier; and

notifying the designated information-providing terminal of the occurrence of predetermined event.

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19. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

storing a charging condition for charging administrators of the information-providing terminals in the second storage; and

monitoring for an occurrence of an information-providing terminal that matches the charging condition based on information associated with the cart identifier, and upon a match, computing charging information for charging fee to an administrator of that information-providing terminal.

20. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a designation of one or more information-providing terminals and the product from one or more user terminals other than the first user terminal;

storing by a first storage of product information for each information-providing terminal; and

extracting and analyzing the product information that includes a price of the product, computing an analysis result indicating relationship between the product and the price of the product, and sending the result to the first user terminal and/or the information-providing terminals that the first user terminal has designated.

21. (currently amended) An online sales promotion device, comprising:

an acceptance means for receiving, via a network, designation information designating one or more information-providing terminals which the first user permits to access a cart identifier associated with the first user, ~~and to access product information which the first user associates with the cart identifier and product information, and to provide additional product information related to the accessed product information,~~ from a first user terminal;

a first storage means for storing, in association with the cart identifier, the product information and the designation information;

a first notification means for sending to the designated information-providing terminals the cart identifier and the product information associated therewith;

a second storage means receiving from any one of the designated information-providing terminals additional information and storing the received additional information in association with the cart identifier; and

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a second notification means for sending to the first user terminal the product information and the additional information.

22. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to perform online sales promotion, by:

receiving via a network, designation information designating one or more information-providing terminals which the first user permits to access a cart identifier associated with the first user and to access product information which the first user associates with the cart identifier and product information, and to provide additional product information related to the accessed product information, from a first user terminal;

storing, by a first storage, in association with the cart identifier, the product information and the designation information;

sending the cart identifier and product information associated therewith to the designated information-providing terminals;

receiving from any one of the designated information-providing terminals additional information and storing in a second storage the received additional information in association with the cart identifier; and

sending to the first user terminal the product information and the additional information.

23. (currently amended) An online sales promotion method, comprising:

associating product information and designation information, designating a third party ~~that can supply additional product information and that the first user permits to access the product information~~ and supply additional product information, with cart identification information of a first user;

providing the cart identification information and the product information to the third party;

receiving the additional information from the third party;

associating the additional information with the cart identification information; and

providing the associated information to the first user.

24. (previously presented) The online sales promotion method according to claim 23, further comprising:

associating settlement information needed for a purchase of the product with the cart identification information; and

selling the product to the first user, using the settlement information.

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25. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method according to claim 23, further comprising:

receiving an instruction from the first user to assign information to a second user; and associating the second user with the cart identification information.

26. (previously presented) An online sales promotion method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising awarding an incentive upon determination that an incentive condition is fulfilled.